

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-187 were pending. Claims 80-83 and 165-178 have been cancelled. Claims 84 and 125-164 have been amended. Therefore, upon entry of this amendment, which is respectfully requested, claims 1-79, 84-164 and 179-187 will be pending.

It is noted that two claims 120 were originally submitted and that the Office Action has referred to all claims in a renumbered manner, that is the second claim 120 has been renumbered as 121, claim 121 has been renumbered as 122, and so on. Accordingly, this response amends or cancels claims based on this renumbered scheme.

Claim 84 has been amended to conform to only group I claims as discussed below.

The Examiner has issued a restriction requirement indicating that the claims are directed to four patentably distinct inventions as follows:

Group I: Claims 1-79, 84-164 and 179-187;

Group II: Claims 80, 84 and 175;

Group III: Claims 81-84 and 176-178; and

Group IV: Claims 165-174.

In order to expedite prosecution, Applicant hereby elects Group I, specifically claims 1-79, 84-164 and 179-187, for prosecution on the merits. Applicants reserve the right to file divisional applications to prosecute claims in the unelected groups.

Appl. No. 09/723,607
Amdt. dated April 23, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 23, 2004,



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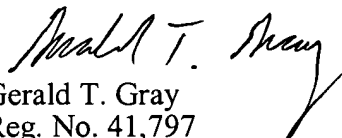
Technology Center 2100

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted, .


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